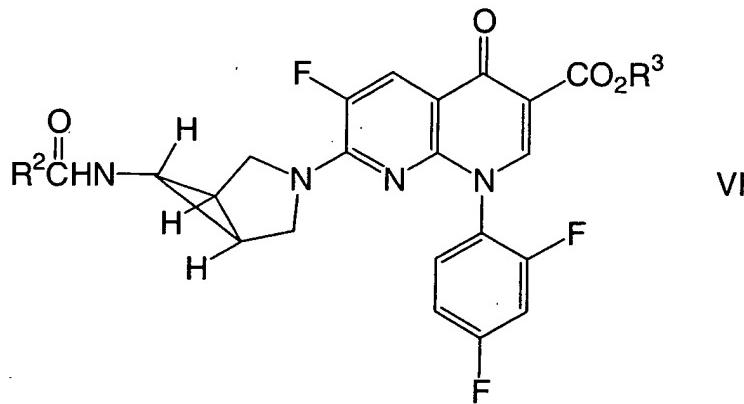


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Please amend the claims as follows.

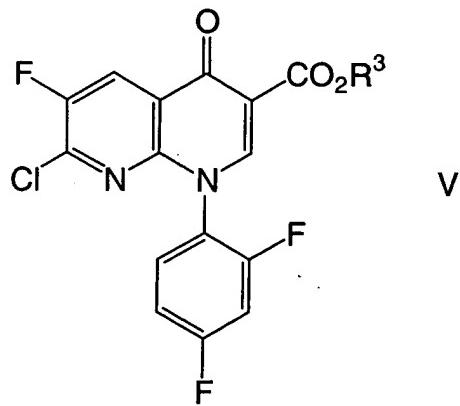
Please replace Claims 8, 9 and 10 with the following corresponding amended claims.

8 (once amended). A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula



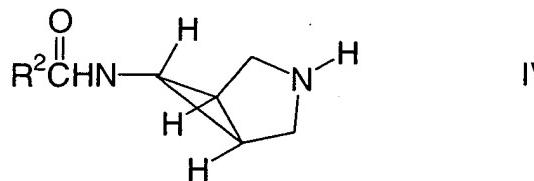
wherein R² is C₁-C⁶ alkyl, trifluoromethyl, or phenyl which may be substituted by one or more of C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, halo, nitro, amino or trifluoromethyl, and

R³ is C₁-C₆ alkyl, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula

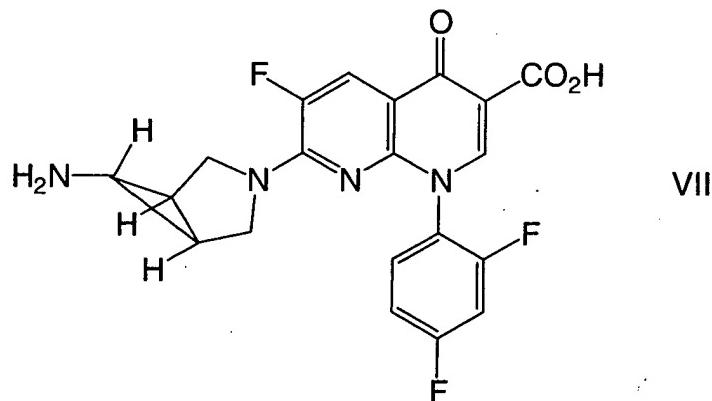


with a compound of the formula

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9 (once amended). A process comprising hydrolysis of the compound of formula VI with methanesulfonic acid, water and an organic solvent to form a monomethanesulfonic acid salt of a compound of the formula



10 (once amended). A process comprising hydrolysis of the compound of formula VI with methanesulfonic acid and R³OH wherein R³ is C₁-C₆ alkyl to form a monomethanesulfonic acid salt of a compound of the formula

